

*METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CALCULATION AND USE OF A DISK IMAGE
IDENTIFIER*

ABSTRACT

5 A method of calculating a disk image identifier for use in a software delivery
system is disclosed. An order entry process produces a bill of materials (BOM) and a
unique software image identification number (USIIN) is calculated therefrom. The
USIIN is then added to the BOM. The BOM is sorted into ascending alphanumeric
order. The USIIN is generated using a 128-bit hash algorithm on each entry in the
10 BOM until the end. A software delivery process looks for exact image orders and
sets a system duplication process in motion where duplicate orders of images will
generate the same USIIN and be cached for future use in the software delivery
process as required.